

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference GAF/37405.WOP	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/ 03903	International filing date (day/month/year) 09/09/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 10/09/2002
Applicant NSK STEERING SYSTEMS EUROPE LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☒ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

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☐ None of the figures.

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International application No.
PCT/GB 03/03903

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 6 and 7-9, if dependent on 6
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A clamping apparatus for an adjustable steering column for a vehicle includes at least two, relatively slidable plates (1, 2) that can be clamped relatively to one another. More than two plates can be provided to form a pack of plates. Alternate plates have relatively slidable clamping surfaces that can contact one another, the respective clamping surfaces of the two plates being made of materials of different hardnesses. In use, the softer material of one of the plates will deform due to the rubbing of the material of the harder plate and this increases stiction and friction, thereby converting friction into a sheer stress load.

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International Application No
PCT/GB 03/03903

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B62D1/184

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B62D A47C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01 28710 A (ADVAL TECH HOLDING AG ; LUETHI RUDOLF (CH); GRAF URS (CH); JOEHR HA) 26 April 2001 (2001-04-26) the whole document	1-5, 7-9
X	EP 0 019 571 A (RENAULT VEHICULES IND) 26 November 1980 (1980-11-26) abstract; claims 1-3, 6; figures 1-6 page 3, line 4 - page 4, line 6	1-4, 7-9
A	GB 401 718 A (LEABANK MFG COMPANY LTD; FREDERICK WILLIAM KENT) 20 November 1933 (1933-11-20) claims 1, 7 page 2, line 2 - page 2, line 60	1-4, 7-9

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *8* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/12/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Balázs, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/GB 03/03903

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0128710	A	26-04-2001	WO 0128710 A1	26-04-2001
			EP 1222043 A1	17-07-2002
EP 0019571	A	26-11-1980	FR 2456652 A1	12-12-1980
			AT 3195 T	15-05-1983
			DE 3062946 D1	09-06-1983
			EP 0019571 A1	26-11-1980
GB 401718	A	20-11-1933	NONE	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 6 and 7-9, if dependent on 6

No meaningful search possible, as instead of technical features a reference to the drawings is made - see Articles 6, 17 (2) (a) (ii) and Rule 6.2 (a).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.